

LIMITED EDITION OPEL ADAM S ARRIVES IN SA

Written by Staff Reporter
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THE GUARDIAN ON WHEELS **DRIVE** for him and for her
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In February the Limited Edition Opel ADAM S arrived in South Africa. This is the range topper with 110kW 1.4litre Turbo ECOTEC engine, a special chassis, steering and OPC braking system. It is limited to 50 units in South Africa.

The ADAM S completes the ADAM line-up with the newcomer positioned to attract young buyers who seek a compact and agile car with an overtly performance orientated personality.

The ADAM S is available in three distinctive 'Twisted' colour combos: Saturday White Fever, Shiny Rock and Red 'n' Roll. The first two have contrasting red roof and pillars, while the latter has a slate grey upper section. The 18-inch 'Propeller' wheels have a distinctive five spoke design, with red brake callipers clearly visible. For the first time in an ADAM, the exhaust tip - in this instance a chromed, oval one - can be readily seen.

The ADAM S is designed with performance in mind, to this end all of the vehicle's external styling features have a benefit: The roof-coloured rear wing is the most obvious change and importantly, it adds 100 Newtons of rear downforce at speed. With the ADAM S capable of a meaningful 210 km/h, it certainly isn't just for show. A deeper front spoiler performs a similar role to the wing, adding downforce as speed increases to maintain the front/rear aerodynamic balance. Side skirts control airflow under the car, helping the ADAM S hug the driver's chosen line through sweeping bends. The big wheels not only add gravitas by filling the wheel arches to capacity, but their lightweight design reduces unsprung weight and also improves throttle response by minimising inertia.

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Premium quality performance tyres measuring 225/35/18 are fitted, and along with the offset of the wheel result in increased track width (1472mm in front and 1 464 at the back) for improved stability.

The Opel ADAM S has been designed and engineered for people who want to enjoy a sporty driving experience in a car with a unique and individual look. To achieve this Opel engineers came up with a powertrain that would give its best across a broad rev range. With the strong inherent torque characteristics maximum torque in on tap from 3 000 rpm - and the use of a six-speed gearbox. The overall tactile experience is also critical, and there's a leather-wrapped gear lever knob, which accentuates a delightfully short and direct throw, while rubber-studded pedals and a thick-rimmed steering wheel make the control interfaces as intimate as possible. The Red Your Engine décor pack is standard, which means red leather detailing for the gearknob, lower arc of the steering wheel, and the handbrake.

For the ultimate in feel and feedback, the S allows the driver to deactivate the Electronic Stability Programme at the press of a button for even more spirited driving in, say, a circuit environment.

Deserving special mention are the Recaro sport seats, which hug the occupant all the way from the lower thighs to the shoulders. The side bolsters are trimmed in hard-wearing Moroccana and the exceptional support this gives allows the focus to shift entirely to driving, rather than staying in position. The centre portion of the seat is an easy-breathing fabric which is designed to keep things cool.

The apertures for the fitment of a full racing harness are a feature of the backrest, which is of a one-piece design for maximum rigidity and upper body support. Recaro is proudly embossed in the Moroccana section of the backrest.

The 'donor' package for the Adam S was the Adam Jam Xtreme so the standard equipment list is expansive. This includes climate control, height and reach adjustable steering column, power windows, cruise control and a split/foldable rear seat for added practicality.

Advanced Park Assist, Side Blind Spot Alert, Intellilink and Siri Eyes Free are just some of the features that position the Adam as South Africa's most technologically-advanced small car - and

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they are all standard on the new S derivative.

The ADAM S is the perfect personality drive that is as comfortable on the road as it is on the tract. A must-have fun car.